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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON
May 29 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ISA
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, COMPTROLLER
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, MANPOWER
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, INSTALLATIONS AND LOGISTICS

SUBJECT: Temporary Reinforcement as a Berlin Deterrent (S)

It may soon become desirable to show more clearly to the USSR, without fanfare, the U.S. determination and ability to apply military power in the Berlin situation. I consider that temporary reinforcement of U.S. forces in Europe and some expansion of U.S. capability to reinforce further are among the most meaningful acts toward this purpose. The primary objective of such actions would be to deter the USSR from initiating a Berlin crisis.

It is requested that the JCS, in coordination with other addressees, study and provide me by 6 June their views and recommendations regarding the capability for, approximate costs of, and main implications of:

a. An air mobility exercise of about two battle groups to Germany in June, and return within 2-3 weeks, on the order of Long Thrust.

b. Movement (air, sea, or both) of one STRAC division to Germany or Italy in July for a one- or two-month period.

c. Calling one reserve component division to active service in July for a 30- or 60-day period.

d. Other similar scale activity of ground, naval, and air units which you consider would contribute significantly to the above objective at this stage.

For the purpose of this study, the Assistant Secretaries of Defense, International Security Affairs, Comptroller, Manpower and Installations and Logistics are requested to provide all necessary guidance, assistance and support in their respective areas to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. For planning purposes, it should be assumed that these operations would be funded above present budgetary levels.

It is emphasized that this study is for planning purposes only and should not prompt any preparatory activity. Implementation would be a matter for decision at the highest level.

Signed

ROSWELL L. GILPATRIC
Deputy Secretary of Defense

1. ASG Control No. 1603B
cc: *Secretary of the Army
Secretary of the Navy
Secretary of the Air Force
SecDef Cont. No. 5-570

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